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April 9, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 33 – March 2014
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion



1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- The final protocols for information exchange between the NCG and the City of New York were provided by USEPA on March 4. A clarification regarding the distribution lists for these information exchanges was provided by USEPA on March 25.
- Comments on the draft *Phase 2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan – Volume 1* (Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 1) were provided by USEPA on March 5. An additional comment related to sampling for pharmaceuticals, personal care products, pathogens, and endocrine disruptors (3Ps) was provided by USEPA on March 7.
- A letter indicating the USEPA technical team will complete the write-up of the draft *Section 6 Addendum, Phase 2 RI Work Plan – Volume 2* (Section 6 Addendum) was provided by USEPA on March 10.
- A USEPA update meeting was held on March 13. Items discussed during this meeting included: 1) City of New York comments on the data gaps and groundwater components of the draft *Phase 2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan – Volume 2* (Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2); 2) status of the Section 6 Addendum; 3) upcoming Phase 2 RI Work Plan review meetings/calls; and 4) preliminary Phase 2 field program schedule.
- Details regarding the Phase 2 RI Sediment Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Pilot Testing Program (PTP) were requested by USEPA on March 13. This information was provided to USEPA on March 17.
- Data and Geographic Information System (GIS) files related to the Section 6 Addendum, draft *Sources Sampling Approach Memorandum – Addendum* (SSAM Addendum), and a February 17 groundwater presentation were requested by USEPA on March 14. The requested information was provided to USEPA on March 17.
- A meeting with USEPA and the City of New York to discuss possible Phase 2 municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) sampling locations was held on March 19.
- A meeting with USEPA and the City of New York to discuss USEPA's comments on the Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 1 was held on March 19.
- Presentation materials for the April 10 Modeling Workshop No. 4 were submitted to USEPA on March 20.
- Comments on the Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2 were provided by USEPA on March 21.

- Sediment sampling to support the PTP was completed on March 25.
- Responses to USEPA's comments on the Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 1 were submitted to USEPA on March 26.
- A site visit to observe and clarify site-specific conditions related to potential human health exposure to surface water and sediment at public access areas along the creek was held on March 27.
- Comments on the revised Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) Problem Formulation (PF) and proposed caged bivalve study were provided by USEPA on March 28.
- The following activities continued in March:
 - Hydrodynamic and sediment transport model development
 - Phase 2 field program planning
 - PTP

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month

- Anchor QEA was provided results of 2010 surface and subsurface sediment tests conducted by National Grid as part of ongoing New York State Department of Environmental Conservation investigations at its upland site. These sediment samples were collected within the Turning Basin area of Newtown Creek. Anchor QEA is in the process of reviewing these data for use as part of the RI dataset for the Study Area.

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- None.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- Modeling Workshop No. 4 is scheduled for April 10.
- Project update meetings and/or teleconferences with USEPA are scheduled for April 11 and May 8.

- Responses to USEPA comments on the Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2 are due to USEPA on or before April 11.
- A revised Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 1 and BERA PF are due to USEPA on or before April 16.
- A revised Phase 2 RI Work Plan Volume 2 is due to USEPA on or before May 2.
- The revised Section 6 Addendum being prepared by USEPA will be provided to the NCG in mid-April.
- The Phase 2 field investigation is planned to commence the week of April 28.
- Review the preliminary PTP results (pending assay results).

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchorqea.com).

Sincerely,



Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE
Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
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